

Montana and the Sky



Vol. 34, No. 11

MONTANA AERONAUTICS DIVISION

November 1983

Montana Loses Aviation Pioneer

The Montana aviation community was saddened to learn of the death of Frank W. Wiley on November 2 in Shreveport, Louisiana. He was 83.

Frank Wiley spent his life in aviation. He was a nineteen year old youth living in Miles City when touched by the flying fever. A twin-engine Martin World War I bomber, making a 10,000 mile "around the rim flight" to circle the borders of the United States, scheduled a stop in Miles City. That was in 1919, and that event triggered young Wiley's entrance into the aviation fraternity.

There was no formal training in those days, and Wiley picked up the know-how to fly from his own curiosity and the encouragement and instruction of others who already knew. By 1920, Frank Wiley was flying professionally. He was employed as a mechanic in Miles City with the Arrow Miles City Club, and activities of the Club consisted of barnstorming and exhibition flying at fairs and charter flights.

In 1924, Wiley held a position with Ryan Aeronautical Corporation and flew on the first scheduled airline in the United States, operating between Los Angeles and San Diego. He returned to Miles City and established a flying school there in 1927. In 1930 he was in charge of flight operations for Mamer Airlines between Miles City and St. Paul.

Wiley operated a flying service at Glasgow during the construction of the Fort Peck Dam. From 1938 until 1940 he did aerial survey work in many parts of the United States and was in charge of the civilian pilot training program at Johnson Flying Service in Missoula. He served in the U.S.A.A.F. during World War II as a flight safety officer and as chief of emergency rescue.

In 1946 Wiley was appointed to serve as the first director of the newly formed Montana Aeronautics Commission. He served in that capacity until January 1962. During his tenure as director of the Montana Aeronautics Commission, he initiated the airport construction program, set up the state aircraft search and rescue program, and served on numerous boards and committees.

Following his duties as director, Wiley researched and published a history of aviation in Montana, *Montana and the Sky*.

Following his retirement, he maintained an active interest in aviation, particularly in Montana; and though he had lived in Louisiana during recent years, he visited with his Montana friends during frequent summer trips.

Funeral services were held in Bozeman on November 7 with burial at Soldier's Chapel in the Gallatin Canyon. Pallbearers included Gordon Sands, Jim Monger, Jack Wilson, Dick Miller, George Mowat, and Mike Ferguson.

Honorary pallbearers were presidents of the Montana flying organizations: Dick Markle, MPA; Ken Bogar, MFF; Bob Palmersheim, MATA; Ron Litton, MAAA; and Gretchen Biggerstaff, 99s. Participating in a fly-by at the grave site were Richard O'Brien, Ken Wendland, Ralph Hoffman, Dick Van Luchene, and Fred Hasskamp.

Frank Wiley is survived by his wife Rose and his daughter, Mrs. Bernice Mowat, Billings.



Frank Wiley

Administrator's Column

I attended the annual Montana Flying Farmers convention held in Billings October 7, 8, and 9, 1983. The weather was beautiful and the turnout was good. Many Canadian and out-of-state IFF members attended. A highlight of Friday's program was a tour of Oscar's Dreamland, owned by Oscar Cook, which is located about 7 miles southwest of Billings. These beautiful facilities, including the antique farming equipment, are a dream come true for Oscar, and he seemed to enjoy hosting the Flying Farmers as much as they enjoyed his personalized tour and demonstration of his completely operational steam powered sawmill. My congratulations to President Ken Bogar, Queen Carol Fachner, and the other members of the convention committee for a very successful convention. See more on the convention elsewhere in this publication.

* * * * *

I attended the MAMA convention held October 27 and 28, 1983, at Fairmont Hot Springs. In keeping with true Butte tradition, Angi Petroni even arranged a surprise "attention getting" tremor on Friday morning which became the topic of conversation. The main agenda included many interesting and educational topics which were well selected and appropriate for airport management. I would like to congratulate President Joe Attwood, Great Falls Airport manager, and convention Chairman Angelo Petroni, Butte Airport manager, for a job well done.

* * * * *

It was with deep regret and sorrow that we learned of the death of Frank Wiley. Montana aviation has a lot to thank Frank for, as he certainly left his mark of accomplishments everywhere. Frank was a true aviation pioneer; and I, in my travels throughout the country, have become more and more aware of his accomplishments and wide acclaim. I am very proud to have had Frank for my friend. On behalf of the Montana Aeronautics Board and the Aeronautics Division, I wish to extend our sincere condolences to Frank's wife Rose and his family.



This photo was taken of Frank Wiley and I at the MPA convention in Glasgow June 12 - 14, 1981.



Montana and the Sky
USPS 359 860
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Ted Schwinden, Governor
Gary Buchanan, Director

Official Monthly Publication
of the
AERONAUTICS DIVISION
Phone 449-2506
Box 5178
Helena, Montana 59604
Michael D. Ferguson
Administrator

AERONAUTICS BOARD
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MONTANA AND THE SKY is
published monthly in the interest of
aviation in the State of Montana.
Second-Class postage paid at
Helena, Montana 59604
Subscription \$2.00 per year
Editor: Martha E. Kurtz



Hogan Receives Scholarship



Through a contribution by an anonymous donor "in memory of a great lady," Patrick Hogan of Libby was presented with a \$350 scholarship to be used to further his pursuit of a career in aviation. The presentation was made by Mike Ferguson, administrator of the Montana Aeronautics Division, at the Division office on October 7. Pat is enrolled in the airframe and powerplant curriculum at the Helena Vo-Tech Center and has maintained a high academic standing. He holds commercial and instrument ratings and is a flight instructor. He hopes for a career as director of aviation at the corporate level. In the photo above, Pat is pictured with Mike Ferguson and Phil Vittoe, aviation maintenance instructor at the Vo-Tech.

CFR Training Held in Great Falls

The 14th annual CFR training school was held in Great Falls October 2 - 7, 1983, with 46 firefighters receiving specialized training.

Both full-time and volunteer firefighters were provided the specific techniques of aircraft firefighting and extricating crash victims from the wreckage. Hands-on training provided them with a chance to learn about the equipment they were using. The firefighters, suited in special heat/fire resistant clothing, hoods, and gloves, each took part in the "hot drills," extinguishing aviation fuel fires with different types of extinguishing agents.

Montana Air National Guard's Fire Chief Darrell Thomas and Jens Bolstad, of the Montana Fire Services Training School, were pleased with the performance of the students from Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Missouri. Each successful trainee received a certificate from the Federal Aviation Administration for airport firefighting.

Montana firefighters from Lewistown, Kalispell, Butte, Helena, Miles

City, Sidney, and Livingston took part and were also assisted financially by the Montana Aeronautics Division with tuition and room. We continually encourage Montana firefighters to take advantage of the Great Falls school (one of the best in the nation) and become familiar with the trucks and equipment they may have serving their airports. One never knows when this training may save a life.



Randy Ford (right), Glacier Park International Airport in Kalispell, receives his completion certificate from Instructor Jens Bolstad at the CFR School in Great Falls.

Aircraft Registration Deadline Changed

The final date for renewing your aircraft registration is now March 1. Registration is required by Montana law as cited in Montana Code 67-3-201 and the fee is \$5. If you own an ultralight, you must register this aircraft also.

The registration form must be filled in by the aircraft owner and signed by the county treasurer after payment of the aircraft tax OR signed by the county assessor if the aircraft is filed as a lien against real property.

If the aircraft is dismantled or un-flyable, you are not required to register. However, you must still sign and return the completed registration form certifying its condition. You will not, however, be required to pay the \$5 fee. If, during the year, the aircraft is returned to a flyable condition, you will then be required to register it.

Once the registration form has been processed, you will be mailed a decal to attach to your aircraft as proof of registration.



CALENDAR

Dec. 5 - 8 — National Agricultural Association, MGM Grand, Reno, Nev.

Dec. 6 - 7 — Montana Aeronautics Board Meeting, Helena (changed from Dec. 7 - 8).

Jan. 25 - 28 — MATA Convention, Holiday Inn West, Billings.

Feb. 28 - March 1 — Aircraft Mechanics Seminar, Coach House East, Helena.

March 23 - 25 — Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic, Coach House East, Helena.

Sept. 21 - 23 — Mountain Search Pilot Clinic, Kalispell.

Frank Wiley . . . Memories from Our Files



Frank instructs a session of Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic in 1962.



According to a letter Frank wrote in 1982, this picture "was taken in Oxaca, Mexico, in 1934 at which time I flew a Mexican woman down there to her father's funeral. The boy is a relative of hers and the airplane was an early 1924 Fairchild."



Outside the Aeronautics Division office, Frank visits with Herb Jungemann, Aeronautics Commission chairman, in July 1961.



Representing many years of Montana pioneer aviation (from left), Gordon Sands, Frank Wiley, Jack Milburn, and Al Newby reminisced at the dedication of Frank Wiley Field at Miles City on July 8 and 9, 1978.



Al Newby, Frank, and Ron Litton enjoy a visit at the Wiley Field dedication.



Frank addressed numerous aviation groups during his years in Montana. Here he speaks to the banquet crowd at the dedication in Miles City.



In July 1980, Frank and Rose Wiley flew in to Schafer Meadows for an afternoon of visiting during the fly-in. From left are Herb Sammons, Bill Merrick, Rose Wiley, Merle Thorstad, Frank Wiley, Al Newby, Richard O'Brien, and Mike Ferguson.



Frank and Rose Wiley pose beside the Montana Aeronautics Division Bonanza at the Schafer Meadows Fly-In.



Autographing his book, *Montana and the Sky*, occupied a good share of Frank's time at the Wiley Field dedication. Here he signs a copy for Bryant Edsall.



Old-time aviators share memories as Frank Wiley and Gordon Sands visit at the MPA convention in 1981.



Paul Soderlind, retired airline captain, visits with Wiley at the MPA meeting in Glasgow.



Frank Wiley, who began his flying career in 1920, congratulates Ken Brewer for a successful flight in an ultralight at the MPA convention in Glasgow June 12 - 14, 1981.



Years of aviation history combine in the experience of Vic Wokal, O. E. Markle, and Frank Wiley as they visit at the MPA convention in Glasgow in 1981.



A literary award for his work on the Montana aviation history, *Montana and the Sky*, is presented to Frank by Doug Campbell at the June 1981 meeting.



In 1982, Frank was honored at the Montana Aeronautics Board meeting, held in West Yellowstone, with an elkhorn belt buckle on which the buffalo head wings had been engraved. He had designed and copyrighted the wings pin in 1962. Here he is pictured with Board members Maurice Sandmeyer, Jim McLean, Sig Ugrin, Bob Miller, and Herb Sammons.



Herb Sammons makes the presentation to Frank at the West Yellowstone meeting.

FLYING FARMERS CONVENE IN BILLINGS

The Montana Flying Farmers and Ranchers held their convention on October 7-9 at the Ramada Inn in Billings. A tour of Oscar's Dreamland on Friday afternoon attracted over 50 people who got to see many pieces of old-time machinery. Get-acquainted games and activities occupied the evening along with a Region 7 meeting. Region 7 includes Alberta, Saskatchewan, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. Since there are so many IFF officers in this region, it was decided to wait until 1985 to have a combined fly-in or tour.

Saturday's activities began with a business meeting and officer reports.



New officers include (from left): President Ken Bogar, Vice President Al Flikkema, Secretary-Treasurer Marilyn Lewis, Director Leona Strouf, Director Grace Sanford, and Director Al Schmitt.



Jim Lewis poses with the plaque presented to him as 1983 Man of the Year.



1983 Queen Carol Fachner visits with Rodney Blankenbaker, Region 7 director from Colorado.

IFF officers present included: Beth Scott, IFF Duchess from Colorado; Eileen Hampson, IFF Queen from Saskatchewan; John Green, IFF President from Alberta; and Rodney Blankenbaker, Region 7 Director from Colorado. Also in attendance was Cole Kugle, Colorado, IFF Man of the Year.

The luncheon speaker on Saturday was Lloyd Adams from the Billings FSDO office. He explained some of the new rules and regulations affecting aviation, especially in Montana.

Election of officers was held with the following elected and installed after the evening banquet: President - Ken Bogar, Opheim; Vice President - Al Flikkema, Bozeman; Secretary-Treasurer - Marilyn Lewis, Helena; Directors (two-year terms) - Leona Strouf, Moccasin; Al Schmitt, Frazer; Grace Sanford, Lloyd. Hold-over directors are: Floyd Johnson, Wolf Point; Gary Nelson, Moore; Sereta Taylor, Great Falls. Jim Lewis, Helena, will continue as newsletter editor. Crowned Queen was Gayle Johnson of Wolf Point. Jim Lewis was chosen Man of the Year and Leona Strouf was Woman of the Year. They will now be entered in international competition. A reception was held for the Queen after the coronation.

A Sunday morning church service, led by Ken Bogar, concluded the convention.



Marilyn Leininger, 1982 Woman of the Year (left), presents a plaque to Leona Strouf, the 1983 recipient.



Queen Gayle Johnson, Wolf Point, is crowned by Eileen Hampson, International Queen from Saskatchewan.

Nav Aids Installed



By: Jerry Burrows
Aviation Representative

Unicom: New unicom stations are now operational at Seeley Lake and Philipsburg on 122.8 MHz. New solid state equipment has been installed at existing stations — Glendive, Round-up, Polson, and Fort Benton — all on 122.8 MHz.

These new stations were all established under our Airport Services Program wherein the state and the local community share in the cost.

Runway Light Radio Controllers: Three more airports have their runway lights activated with the use of radio controllers: Polson on 122.8 MHz, through an FAA program, and Ronan and St. Ignatius through our Airport Services Program.

Due to the close proximity to Polson, Ronan and St. Ignatius were required to have different frequencies for their radio controllers or all three airports would be lit with one aircraft keying on 122.8. Ronan will operate on 122.7 MHz and St. Ignatius on 123.0 MHz by keying the mike five times in five seconds. The lights will remain on for 15 minutes unless another five clicks are received, at which time the lights will be on for another full 15 minutes.



FLYING COMPANION SEMINARS BEGIN

A Flying Companion Seminar, sponsored by the Montana Aeronautics Division and the Montana Chapter of the 99s, was held in Glasgow on Thursday, October 20. Patty Mitchell, Lynn Kitto, and Loretta Chapman presented the group of ladies with information on flight instruments, chart reading, and navigation using the flight computer, and also included an actual preflight inspection of a Cessna 172 furnished by Wokel Aviation.

The clinic began with each person telling of her flying interest (or lack of it) and why she had decided to attend the clinic. Many of these ladies had been assigned the rear seat in the airplane and didn't know what was going on in the front.

The six-hour course didn't teach them how to fly, but it did alleviate some of the fears associated with the unknown. Cindy Markle, one of the participants of the class, had just soloed an airplane the day before, and she was exuberant in her narrative about this accomplishment. She plans to go on to get her license before too long. Many of the other class members also planned to get started on flying lessons.

Patty explained some of the basics of flying and understanding the flight instruments. Of course, most of these instruments also had names written on the face such as "clock," "alt," "air-speed," "vertical speed," "turn coordinator," etc. The group was encouraged to sit in their airplanes and "read" the instruments.

At the conclusion of the session, each non-flying person was able to read a sectional chart, plot a course, figure the heading, time to destination, and fuel used for the flight. All were impressed with how much fun it was and how easy it all seemed after a little knowledge. Each was encouraged to get some dual instruction from the local flight instructors and learn to land the airplane.

After their day at the airport, these ladies will be flying with a different attitude and the ability to be helpful to their flying companion as well.

The Montana Aeronautics Division and the Montana Chapter of the 99s will be conducting these seminars around the state. If you are interested in having one in your city, contact Patty Mitchell at Aeronautics at 449-2506 or Kay Roam in Billings at 252-7765 or 259-4545.



Glasgow ladies attending the Flying Companion seminar on October 20 included (from left): Linda Allie, Loretta Chapman, Susan Gillespie, Joyce Lebsack, Stella Wiens, Sandy Archambeault, Lois Markle, and Lynne Kitto. Kneeling are Patty Mitchell, Cindy Markle, and Janet Markle. Also attending but not pictured were Mary and Zeolah Oglesby and Shelia Fast.

CONGRATULATIONS!

FAA Certificates Issued Recently to Pilots

PRIVATE

Jerold Skillman Helena
Marion Basacker Stevensville
Kevin Smit Manhattan
Christina Pomeroy Bozeman
Kenneth Lasar Glasgow
Richard Skyberg Glasgow
Theresa Gallup Billings
Delbert Vine Vida
Laura Garritson Billings
Donald Hartung Billings

Lee Lytton Ronan
Kelly Gebhardt Roundup
John Machart Peerless
Bernard London Miles City

COMMERCIAL

Donald Misevic Missoula

INSTRUMENT

Donald Poulson Billings

ATP

Bradley Anderson Dillon

SEAPLANE

Grant Lindemer Seeley Lake

Missoula Vo-Tech To Offer Ground School

The Missoula Vo-Tech School is planning to offer a ground school evening class for commercial and instrument ratings beginning winter quarter, 1984. The schedule is yet to be decided. Anyone interested should contact Carl Sandell at the Missoula Vo-Tech, phone 721-1330.

2,500 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of \$.25 per copy, for a total cost of \$626, which included \$487 for printing and \$139 for distribution.

MEMBER

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AVIATION OFFICIALS

PURPOSE—"To foster aviation, as an industry, as a mode of transportation for persons and property and as an arm of the national defense; to join with the Federal Government and other groups in research, development, and advancement of aviation; to develop uniform laws and regulations; and to otherwise encourage cooperation and mutual aid among the several states."



P.O. Box 5178
Helena, Montana 59604

November 1983

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Helena, MT 59604